



de maximis, inc.

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December 15, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 163 – November 2020
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On November 3, EPA/CPG telephone conversation between Diane Salkie and Robert Law regarding the status of the revised September 30, 2020 Draft Upper 9-Mile Interim Remedy Feasibility Study (IR FS).
- On November 9, EPA/CPG telephone conversation between Diane Salkie and Robert Law regarding IR FS status.
- On November 24, EPA Region 2 (Region 2) and CPG held a teleconference to discuss the review and approval of the IR FS.

Correspondence

- On November 2 and 3, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding the disposition of surplus specimen samples from the 2019 Current Conditions Biota sampling program.
- On November 5, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding sediment treatment and cost assumptions included in the IR FS.

Ms. D. Salkie

LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 163 – November 2020

December 15, 2020

Page 2 of 3

- On November 6, CPG provided Region 2 additional information on the archived biota specimens from the 2019 Current Conditions Biota Sampling program.
- On November 10, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding the IR FS review and approval status.
- On November 10, Region 2 requested uploads of specific Progress Reports from the CPG.
- On November 16, CPG notified Region 2 that the requested Progress Reports had been uploaded to the EPA SharePoint Site.
- On November 16, CPG delivered the October Monthly Progress Report to Region 2.
- On November 20, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails on the status of the IR FS.
- On November 20, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) interest in the archived surplus specimens from the 2019 Current Conditions Biota Sampling program proposed for disposal.
- On November 24, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding documentation questions for the 17-Mile Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) and River Mile 10.9 Remedial Action (RA) projects for the Administrative Record.
- On November 24, 25, and 30, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding uploading of large 17-Mile RI Report Appendices to the EPA SharePoint Site.

Work

- CPG continued reviewing and preparing responses to Region 2 comments on the IR FS.
- CPG continued preparing data summary reports for the 2020 Current Conditions surface water monitoring program.
- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

- None.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG will respond to comments on the IR FS delivered to Region 2 on September 30, 2020 and deliver a revised FS when appropriate.
- CPG will respond to comments on the Draft 2019 Current Conditions Biota Sampling Data Summary Report.
- CPG will continue preparing data summary reports for the 2020 Current Conditions surface water monitoring program.

Ms. D. Salkie
LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 163 – November 2020
December 15, 2020
Page 3 of 3

(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

- Work/travel safety restrictions associated with COVID-19 have impacted and delayed 2020 Current Conditions Biota Sampling field work

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.



Willard Potter
CPG Project Coordinator

cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel
William Hyatt, CPG Coordinating Counsel
Lisa Baron, USACE
Clay Stern, USFWS
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